

It's Sew Easy Series 1700

Show#1712-2 Quick tip – Quilt As You Go Serger Technique

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Have you ever tried strip quilting with your serger? This “quilt as you go” technique is perfect for smaller items such as baby blankets, lap quilts, placemats, potholders, table runners, and many other items too! In this quick tip segment you’ll see how to layer your top, batting, and backing fabrics to quilt layers and sew the seams all in one quick pass through the serger. In the example that follows I used three coordinating fabrics for the top and another fabric for the backing. At the end of these instructions you’ll find a link for a free placemat project with step by step photos. Here is the basic method used for the technique demonstrated in this show:

1. Set up the serger for a four-thread wide stitch and select a long stitch length.
2. Cut strips from selected fabrics for top, backing, and batting, cutting all pieces the same size for length and width. Label the three coordinating fabrics #1, #2, and #3. **Note:** My strips measure 3-inches wide. Assemble strips for the first set of fabrics, layering as follows:
 - Batting.
 - Backing piece RIGHT SIDE up.
 - Backing piece RIGHT SIDE down.
 - Batting.
 - Fabric #1 RIGHT SIDE up.
 - Fabric #2 RIGHT SIDE down.
2. Make sure all raw edges of strips are even and take the layered pieces to the serger.
3. Serge a seam through all layers, serging along the right-hand edge of the layered fabrics. **Tip:** As you serge each seam you'll want to refrain from cutting the fabric. I like to leave the cutting blade in place and take care to only skim stray threads extending from the raw edges.
4. Open out fabric layers and press flat. You should see fabric #1 on the left, and fabric #2 on the right, with matching backing pieces on the back side and batting secured in the middle of these layers.
5. As you continue you will want to work from left to right. For the next seam, begin by placing a piece of backing on a flat surface with the RIGHT SIDE up. Next, layer the piece you just serged and pressed open on top, with RIGHT SIDES of backing facing and raw edges even. Layer fabric #3 against fabric #2 with right sides facing and raw edges matching. Now, finish with a layer of batting. Take the layered pieces to the serger and serge the seam along the right-hand edge of the layered fabrics.
6. Open out the fabric layers and press flat. Looking at your sewn strips from left to right, you should see fabric #1 on the left, followed by fabric #2, and then #3, with matching backing pieces on the back side and batting secured in the middle of each layer.
7. Continue layering and stitching. Begin each time by placing a piece of backing on a flat surface with the RIGHT SIDE up. Add previously stitched layers next, with backing pieces right sides together. Add the next strip in the sequence, finish with a layer of batting, and serge the seam. Continue in this manner until you have used all your pieces.

Options and ideas:

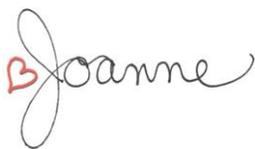
- These instructions feature three coordinating fabrics for the top. You may want to use all one color for the top or opt for random colors for your strip piecing. The most essential element of this technique is making sure the fabrics are layered properly so right sides show when seams are pressed open. If at any time you are unsure of your layering, simply pin the layers together along the seamline and then open them up to see if they are correct before you sew. To determine the width of a finished project you'll need to calculate the number of strips needed and factor in the seam allowance needed for each set of strips. Once you learn the basic technique, you'll find this is a fast and easy way to create quick quilts and quilted items with a serger.

Visit letsdosew.com for a free tutorial showing you how to create a set of placemats using this technique. You'll find this full color tutorial with step by step photos under the tab titled **Bonus Materials for It's Sew Easy TV series 1700.**

Additional Resources:

- I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website www.letsdosew.com. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!
- You can sign-up for letsdosew.com news [HERE](#).
- Find me on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- Be sure to visit the [Official Brother Blog](#) to read my posts on a wide variety of sewing and embroidery topics.

Happy Sewing!



Joanne